

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS

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P 052345Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTERVIEW

1. NBC NEWS NEW YORK HAS CALLED DEPARTMENT AND STATED IT PLANS TO SEND A TV CREW FROM HONG KONG TO BANGKOK IN MID-MARCH TO DO STORIES FOR THE USE IN "TODAY" SHOW. NBC EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN INTERVIEWING AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND INDICATED IT HAD APPROACHED EMBASSY AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL AND WAS TOLD TO ASK THE DEPARTMENT. SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW WOULD BE SEASIA ONE YEAR AFTER FALL OF VIET NAM.

2. NBC WAS TOLD THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, THERE WAS NO DEPARTMENT OBJECTION BUT THAT IT WOULD DEPEND, ULTIMATELY, UPON THE AMBASSADOR'S TIME AND AVAILABILITY. THEY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THIS.

3. NBC ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WAS INTERESTED IN COVERING THE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS FROM THAILAND IN ITS INTERVIEW. THEY WERE TOLD THAT NEITHER THE AMBASSADOR NOR ANYONE ELSE ON THE EMBASSY STAFF WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE IN ANY DETAIL SHOULD IT STILL BE A MATTER OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AT THE TIME

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THE TEAM IS IN BANGKOK. KISSINGER

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